

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3804
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
COMPENSATION TO FARMERS BY BBMB
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of Balah Valley of district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh are facing problems like depositing of silt and drinking water in the fields due to the project being run by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (B.B.M.B.);
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the BBMB to solve their problems;
- (c) whether BBMB have formulated any scheme to give compensation to the farmers, who have suffered loss due to silt deposit in their fields; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) are seized of the problems relating to deposit of silt and drinking water being faced by the people of Balah area of District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on account of dredging the silt from the Balancing Reservoir of Beas Sutlej Project at Sundernagar and have taken the following steps to mitigate the problems of the people in the area:

1. The dredged silt from the Balancing Reservoir is carried through a Cunette provided and maintained in the bed of Suketi Khad.
2. Based on the assessment made by the State Government authorities, compensation is paid to the farmers for the damage caused to their crops.
3. A sum of Rs.65 lakhs was paid (Rs.35 Lakhs in 1987 and Rs.30 lakhs in 1997) to Himachal Pradesh Government for restoration of water supply both for drinking and irrigation purposes.
4. In 1986, BBMB had given 20 Cs. of water for Balah Valley Irrigation Project, free of cost from Sundernagar Hydel Channel.
5. Approval was also accorded to give 14.75 Cs. of irrigation water for the area on the left side of Suketi Khad during 1999 including 7.45 Cs. irrigation water already being released from Sundernagar Hydel Channel.
6. BBMB have provided facilities to the local people in BBMB schools and hospitals at Sundernagar.
7. BBMB had awarded the project for preparing the Environment Management Plan to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). NEERI's report has suggested short-term and long-term remedial measures. In November, 2001, BBMB have approved the scheme of Short Term Mitigation Measures at an estimated cost of Rs.183 lakhs in addition to the payment of crop compensation to the affected farmers on account of damage to their crops till the implementation of Long Term Options suggested by NEERI.